

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18-43 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-17.

Please add new claims 44-46.

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below.

Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough, are expressed in the listing.

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer binder for a fibrous sheet comprising:
~~an anionic polymer~~ a polyanion having a negative charge of between about 4 to about 12 milliequivalents per gram; and
~~a cationic polymer~~ polycation having a positive charge of between about 6 to about 12 milliequivalents per gram.
2. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the polyanion has a plurality of negatively charged anionic groups and the polycation has a plurality of positively charged cationic groups, the molar ratio of total ~~polyanion acid~~ negatively charged anionic groups to total ~~polycation~~ positively charged cationic groups is being between about 10:1 ~~to~~ and about 1.1:1.
3. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of total negatively charged anionic polymer groups to total positively charged cationic polymer groups is about 3:1.

4. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the molecular ~~size~~ weight of the ~~anionic polymer polyanion~~ is between about 10,000 to about 900,000 grams per mole.
5. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the ~~anionic polymer polyanion~~ is crosslinked.
6. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 5, wherein the ~~anionic polymer polyanion~~ has a ~~crosslinked density plurality of negatively charged anionic groups~~, the total negatively charged anionic groups having a cross-link ratio of up to about ~~1-per 50 units~~ 1:50.
7. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the molecular ~~size~~ weight of the ~~cationic polymer polycation~~ is between about 10,000 to about 900,000 grams per mole.
8. (Original) The binder of claim 1, wherein the binder forms a interpolyelectrolyte complex.
9. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the binder further ~~including~~ comprises a spacer selected from the group consisting of a polysaccharide, a hydrogel, a latex and combinations thereof.
10. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 9 1, wherein the ~~polysaccharide binder~~ further comprises a starch spacer.

11. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the binder further including comprises a surfactant.

12. (Original) The binder of claim 11, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkylamines, fatty amines and combinations thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein ~~anionic polymer~~ the polyanion to cationic polymer polycation charge ratio is about 1:1.

14. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the ~~anionic polymer~~ polyanion is selected from the group consisting of polycarbohydrates, polyphosphates, polysulfonates, polysulfates and combinations thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1, wherein the ~~cationic polymer~~ polycation is ~~selected from the group consisting of polymeric amine~~ a polyamine.

16. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 15, wherein the ~~polymeric amine~~ polyamine is ~~selected from the group consisting of primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, a quaternary amines and combinations thereof~~ aminc.

17. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1 ~~45~~, wherein the ~~anionic polymer~~ is anionic acid groups are weakly acidic.

18-43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) The binder of claim 1, wherein the polycation has a positive charge of between 6 to about 12 millicquivalents per gram.

45. (New) The binder of claim 2, wherein the negatively charged anionic groups are acids.

46. (New) The binder of claim 2, wherein the positively charged cationic groups are amines.